

In the Claims (clean copy as amended)

Kindly amend the claims as follows:

1. (Twice Amended) A method for isomerizing aromatic compounds, which comprises contacting at least one aromatic compound with a zeolite-containing catalyst having a pore structure of controlled diameter, said zeolite being characterized in that:

(1) when said pore aperture has a circular or a non-circular cross section and accordingly has a minimum diameter and a maximum diameter, the minimum value of the pore aperture diameter of the major channels therein is larger than 0.65 nanometers, and the maximum value thereof is larger than 0.70 nanometers, and wherein

(2) said major channels do not intersect any others having larger apertures than an oxygen 10-membered ring;

and wherein said aromatic compounds are selected from the group consisting of:

(a) aromatic compounds having at least three substituents,

(b) aromatic compounds having two substituents of which at least one is a halogen or has at least 2 carbon atoms, and

(c) naphthalene or anthracene derivatives having substituent(s).

2. (Twice Amended) The method for isomerizing aromatic compounds as claimed in claim 1, wherein said minimum value of the pore aperture diameter of said major channels in the zeolite is 0.7 nanometers or above.

3. (Twice Amended) The method for isomerizing aromatic compounds as claimed in claim 1 or 2, wherein the pore aperture size of said major channels in the zeolite is larger than an oxygen 12-membered ring.

7. (Amended) The method according to Claim 1, wherein the maximum value of the pore entrance diameter is at most 1.1 nm.